

What is claimed is:

1. A wavelength conversion device which converts an excitation light pulse with central wavelength λ_s into light pulses with central wavelength $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n 5 is a natural number), comprising:

an SC (supercontinuum) light generation portion, onto which the excitation light pulse of central wavelength λ_s is incident, and which generates SC light having a spectral shape distributed over the range from wavelength λ_L to 10 wavelength λ_H (where $\lambda_L < \lambda_H$); and,

an optical wavelength filter which filters the SC light, and the transmission central wavelengths of which are $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number); and

wherein the following conditions (1) and (2-1), (2-15) 2), ..., (2-n) between the wavelength λ_L , the wavelength λ_H , the wavelength λ_s , and the wavelengths $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number) are satisfied.

$$\lambda_L < \lambda_s < \lambda_H \quad (1)$$

$$\lambda_L < \lambda_1 < \lambda_H \quad (2-1)$$

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$$\lambda_L < \lambda_n < \lambda_H \quad (2-n)$$

2. The wavelength conversion device according to 25 Claim 1, wherein said SC light generation portion is an optical fiber having a characteristic such that the absolute

value of the wavelength dispersion at the wavelength λ_s decreases in the propagation direction.

3. The wavelength conversion device according to
Claim 1, wherein said optical wavelength filter has a
5 transmission characteristic such that the shape of the
transmitted light spectrum is equivalent to the spectral
shape obtained by a Fourier transform of the temporal
waveforms of light pulses the central wavelengths of which
are $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number).

10 4. The wavelength conversion device according to
Claim 2, wherein said optical wavelength filter has a
transmission characteristic such that the shape of the
transmitted light spectrum is equivalent to the spectral
shape obtained by a Fourier transform of the temporal
waveforms of light pulses the central wavelengths of which
15 are $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number).

5. The wavelength conversion device according to
Claim 3, wherein said optical wavelength filter has a
transmission characteristic such that the light
20 transmissivity is represented by a Gaussian function, with
the wavelength as an independent variable.

6. The wavelength conversion device according to
Claim 4, wherein said optical wavelength filter has a
transmission characteristic such that the light
25 transmissivity is represented by a Gaussian function, with
the wavelength as an independent variable.

7. The wavelength conversion device according to

Claim 3, wherein the transmission bandwidth Δf (Hz) of said optical wavelength filter satisfies the following condition

5 (3) :

$$\Delta f = f_h > 0.44 f_0 \quad (3)$$

where f_h (Hz) is the full width at half-maximum on the time axis of converted light pulses of wavelengths $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number), and f_0 (Hz) is equivalent to the frequency (bit rate) giving the frequency of appearance of light pulses on the time axis.

8. The wavelength conversion device according to

Claim 4, wherein the transmission bandwidth Δf (Hz) of said optical wavelength filter satisfies the following condition

15 (3) :

$$\Delta f = f_h > 0.44 f_0 \quad (3)$$

where f_h (Hz) is the full width at half-maximum on the time axis of converted light pulses of wavelengths $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number), and f_0 (Hz) is equivalent to the frequency (bit rate) giving the frequency of appearance of light pulses on the time axis.

9. The wavelength conversion device according to

Claim 5, wherein the transmission bandwidth Δf (Hz) of said optical wavelength filter satisfies the following condition

25 (3) :

$$\Delta f = f_h > 0.44 f_0 \quad (3)$$

where f_h (Hz) is the full width at half-maximum on the time axis of converted light pulses of wavelengths $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number), and f_0 (Hz) is equivalent to the frequency (bit rate) giving the frequency 5 of appearance of light pulses on the time axis.

10. The wavelength conversion device according to Claim 6, wherein the transmission bandwidth Δf (Hz) of said optical wavelength filter satisfies the following condition (3) :

$$10 \quad \Delta f = f_h > 0.44f_0 \quad (3)$$

where f_h (Hz) is the full width at half-maximum on the time axis of converted light pulses of wavelengths $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ (where n is a natural number), and f_0 (Hz) is equivalent to the frequency (bit rate) giving the frequency 15 of appearance of light pulses on the time axis.

11. The wavelength conversion device according to Claim 1, comprising an optical amplifier in the incident optical path of said SC light generation portion of said excitation light pulse, the optical amplifier amplifying the 20 peak power of the excitation light pulse to the optical intensity level necessary for generation of SC light.

12. The wavelength conversion device according to Claim 1, wherein said optical wavelength filter is a transmission wavelength-variable filter, the transmission 25 light central frequency of which can be varied.

13. The wavelength conversion device according to Claim 1, wherein said optical wavelength filter is

configured using an optical fiber grating, and by arranging serially an optical circulator and optical wavelength filter.

14. The wavelength conversion device according to

Claim 1, wherein said optical wavelength filter is

5 configured using an optical fiber grating, and by arranging optical circulators and optical wavelength filters serially and alternately.

15. The wavelength conversion device according to

Claim 1, wherein said optical wavelength filter is an

10 arrayed waveguide grating.